241 [Plates p. 254]

[249] Yet a wild form of manioc has been found (Manihot utilissimo, Pohl); if not the very species we use, at least one of the same genus. But maize?

Where on the surface of the earth does maize exist in a wild state except for the tunicated Zea mais which is sometimes considered to be the ancestor of the modern species?

What unveiling of mysteries, if this question were to be answered!

Some Tagnani who were watching the herdsman João Lucas weed a small plot in Três Buritis began to laugh at him, indicating that it would be better to root up the weeds; the hoe severed the stems but left in the roots, and the plants would grow up again. When the Nambicuara weed, they pull out everything that is not useful. Their plots are always clean.

Their tobacco is the Nicotiana that grows wild in their mountains; it may not properly be said that urucu and cotton are cultivated; they are planted and utilized. Some large beans of various kinds de-
278 241 serve mention. [250] They are to be found in the Indians' baskets along with many other plants; but we never saw an Indian eating them or making any use of them. Pending further research, I am of the opinion that they are saved for medicinal undertakings carried out in secret by old men and women. The same may be said of the castor oil plant (Ricinus communis), which is definitely adventitious.

[Fig. 39]

415 The spools of cotton fiber that await spinning and the seeds saved for future use are kept out of the weather, dust and rain in bags made of straw or pacova leaves.

[Fig. 40]

759 It seemed to us that medicine was not exercised by any special segment of society. They all take part in the treatment of certain diseases; in serious cases, an experienced elder takes over.

752 Wounds are dressed with straw fibers [coated] with certain resins (jatobá). Burns are treated with cold water. Fractures and dislocations are reduced haphazardly.